

May 23, 2023

Via email only

To: The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Re: Minden Emergency Department

Please be advised that during their Regular Council meeting held May 16, 2023, Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. **R2023-265**

Moved by Councillor Franzen
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Armstrong

Whereas Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has announced that, as of June 1, 2023, staff working in the Minden Emergency Department will be transferred to the Haliburton Emergency Department; and

Whereas the Minden Emergency Department serves a large portion of Municipality of Trent Lakes' residents; and

Whereas the health and wellbeing of our residents is dependent on the Minden Emergency Department continuing to operate out of Minden, rather than Haliburton;

Therefore That Council direct staff to prepare a letter expressing the concerns and impacts this closure would have on the residents of the Municipality of Trent Lakes to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; and further

That Council direct staff to circulate the attached letter to HHHS, MPP David Smith, Haliburton County, Peterborough County, and their local municipalities.

The Municipality of Trent Lakes Council has expressed concern with the recent announcement relating to the closure of the Minden Hospital Emergency Department effective June 1, 2023.

Many of Trent Lakes' permanent and seasonal residents use the critical health services offered at the Minden Emergency Department. The essential and compassionate care provided by the dedicated staff working at this facility has been an important and valued part of this community for many years.

As a neighbouring Municipality and a partner in providing critical public services, we respect the funding challenges that must come with the roughly 13,000 annual visits to Minden's Emergency Department. Although we respect the intention to offer the same services at the Haliburton Hospital, it should be

recognized that there will be additional pressure added to this facility with this closure, and potential transportation issues for those accessing care at the Haliburton site.

Our community is facing a physician shortage resulting in a lack of available primary health care professionals. This situation is typical of many communities across Ontario and Canada as the shortage of physicians, nurse practitioners and nurses is a national concern. The lack of access to health care professionals that provide comprehensive patient support most certainly puts pressure on Emergency Rooms like the one in Minden.

At the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference in August of 2022, Trent Lakes provided a presentation where they called on the provincial and federal governments to collaborate and take a more active role in addressing the shortage of health care professionals in Canada.

Although Trent Lakes has two health centres, neither of these centres are currently taking patients and both have struggled securing physicians in the past. In recognition of the importance of health services to our community, the Municipality budgets approximately \$100,000.00 annually to support operations at these centres.

Based on the feedback received to date from our community members, there is certainly concern with the quick timeline for this closure. Once again, we very much respect the funding challenges faced in delivering health care services as we too face funding challenges in providing the necessary services we deliver.

In closing, Trent Lakes Council respectfully requests a reconsideration of the decision to close the Minden Emergency Department. For that reason, it is requested that the Ministry, at a minimum, extend the June 1, 2023 closure date to allow collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure a seamless transition.

Sincerely,

Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Trent Lakes

cc: Haliburton Highlands Health Services – info@hhhs.ca
The Honourable Dave Smith, MPP Peterborough-Kawartha - dave.smithco@pc.ola.org
Haliburton County – caoclerk-info@county.haliburton.on.ca
Peterborough County – kstevenson@ptbocounty.ca
Township of Algonquin Highlands – dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca
Municipality of Dysart et al – mbishop@dysartetal.ca
Municipality of Highlands East – rrogers@highlandseast.ca
Township of Minden Hills – tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca
Township of Asphodel-Norwood – cwhite@antownship.ca
Township of Cavan-Monaghan – cpage@cavanmonaghan.net
Township of Douro-Dummer – martinac@dourodummer.on.ca
Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen – bangione@hbmtpw.ca
Township of North Kawartha – c.parent@northkawartha.ca

Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan – hscott@osmtownship.ca
Township of Selwyn – achittick@selwyntownship.ca